

The Disarm Education Fund

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STUDS TERKEL TO MODERATE FORUM ON FIRST STRIKE WEAPONS

PAUL WARNKE, PETRA KELLEY, FRANK GAFFNEY, AND RAMSEY CLARK AMONG PARTICIPANTS IN NATIONAL RADIO BROADCAST

(New York, N.Y.) -- On January 18, 1985, a forum will be held at the Loeb Auditorium at New York University to discuss the impact of precision-guided, "first strike" weapons. The MX, the Trident, the Pershing, and the Soviet SS-18 will be among the weapons systems discussed at this event.

Participants will include senior members of the Reagan Administration, former government officials, and leaders of the disarmament movement, who will discuss the implications of this revolutionary new generation of weapons. Participants include:

Studs Terkel (author and moderator)

Frank Gaffney (Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategic and Theatre Nuclear Forces)

Paul Warnke (former SALT negotiator)

Herbert Scoville (former CIA official)

Ramsey Clark (former Attorney General)

Petra Kelley (Member of Parliament, West German Green Party)

Gen. Gert Bastian (former NATO officer)

Daniel Ellsberg (former RAND analyst)

Dr. Michio Kaku (nuclear physicist)

The delicate balance between the two superpowers, which as been relatively stable for the past twenty years, is about to collapse. A new generation of weapons may soon be accurate enough to place

hydrogen bombs on top of the enemy's missile silos, making retaliation virtually impossible after a first strike.

Panelists will discuss the accusations by both superpowers that the other side is building weapons which can execute a successful first strike. The United States, for example, has repeatedly charged that the Soviet SS-18 poses a first strike threat to most of our Minuteman missile bases. The Soviets, in turn, have charged that the MX and the Pershing II are accurate enough to pre-empt Soviet missiles and "decapitate" command centers in a first strike. Both sides agree, however, that these "first strike weapons" have permanently destabilized the arms race.

The deployment of these weapons increases the likelihood that the side striking first may be capable of permanently disarming the enemy, and to "win" a nuclear war. With both sides approaching first strike capability, it places enormous incentives in a crisis to strike first. And, because these weapons take only minutes to strike at their targets, it forces both superpowers to adopt a computerized "launch on warning" strategy, essentially placing more than 50,000 nuclear warheads on a hair-trigger basis.

More than 200 public radio stations are expected to carry this broadcast over the National Public Radio (NPR) satellite system, as well as radio stations in Canada, Australia, and Europe.

For further information about the Forum on First Strike Weapons, please call Bob Schwartz at (212) 475-3232.

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